

REMARKS

The present invention concerns a method for patterning a surface in a so-called soft lithography process, based on a kind of soft-lithography called microstamping. Two modes for performing the invention are discerned and made the subject of corresponding independent method claims 1 and 14. As will be seen, these two modes as taught by claims 1 and 14, are exact inverse analogues and this fact is also underscored by their respective appended dependent claims 2-11 and 15-24, respectively. The two modes are respectively called lift-up and put-down, and in the first case a pattern is created in a material covering a substrate by applying a stamp with a suitable patterned stamp surface to the material and then removing material from the surface by lifting up the stamp, thus creating the desired pattern in material on the surface. Vice versa a coating of a material, which is to be patterned onto a substrate, is applied to a patterned stamp surface, the stamp applied to the substrate and the material transferred thereto in the desired pattern.

As will be seen, the two modes of the invention are made possible by a suitable preparation of the adhesive properties of respectively the stamp surface and the substrate. It will be seen by one of ordinary skill in the art that in lift-up the material that is removed must adhere more strongly to the stamp surface than to the substrate, while in put-down of course the material adheres

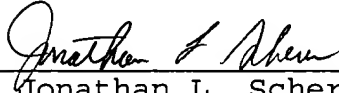
weakly to the stamp surface and more strongly to the substrate. Anyone skilled or competent in the art would indicate that these two modes can be subsumed under the same scope and spirit. On the other hand it is easy to see that it can lead to confusion to disclose inverse analogues in one and the same independent claim; hence the choice of using two independent claims in the present application. It should also be well-known and as accepted within the rules of practice in most countries, there are instances wherein one and the same application can be used to cover dissimilar aspects of one and the same invention, as of course would be the case with e.g. lock and key, transmitter and receiver and so on.

In the present case the two modes of the invention are simply to be regarded as inverse analogues of each other. In no country where a corresponding application has been filed and the application has been subjected to an examination has there been the slightest objections to the claims as filed on the ground of separate inventions. The idea that the subject matter of claims 1 and 14 are not directed to a single general inventive concept is incorrect.

It is respectfully submitted that the captioned application is in condition for examination on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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